

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06434 01 OF 02 161323 Z

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01 NSC-10

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 EUR-10

SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 (ADP) W

----- 080987

O R 161110 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 226

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 6434

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 06434 01 OF 02 161323 Z

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW - APRIL 16, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: IN THE ELEVENTH POST- CEASEFIRE WEEK FIGHTING FLARED SPASMODICALLY IN ALL REGIONS OF SVN. ENEMY PRESSURE IN THREE AREAS, HONG NHU, TONG LE CHAN, AND WNW OF HUE CONTINUES TO EXASPERATE THE GVN WHOSE SENIOR FIELD COMMANDERS ARE INDICATING INCREASING FRUSTRATION AT THE CONTINUING NVA BUILDUP AND AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE ONE- SIDED CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH THEY MUST OPERATE. PRESIDENT THIEU AFTER HIS RETURN FROM A WORLD- WIDE TOUR APRIL 14, MAY WELL BE PRESENTED WITH PROPOSALS THAT THE RVNAF

ASSUME A MORE OFFENSIVE POSTURE. AMERICAN OBSERVERS IN THE DELTA BELIEVE THAT SUCH A SHIFT HAS ALREADY BECOME EVIDENT THERE AND THEY PREDICT MORE FIGHTING AS A RESULT.

2. THE SIXTH BILATERAL RVN/ PRG MEETING IN PARIS 12 PRODUCED NOTHING BUT POLEMICS. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT MEANINGFUL SECRET TALKS ARE IN PROSPECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEREFORE, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN SVN WILL CONTINUE. THE ENEMY BUILD- UP CONTINUES, BUT HIS INTENTIONS ARE UNCLEAR. HOWEVER, SENIOR GVN FIELD COMMANDERS IN ALL REGIONS APPEAR TO EXPECT A RENEWED OFFENSIVE SOMETIME WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS -- THEIR PREDICTIONS ON TIMING VARY -- AND ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS ACCORDINGLY.

3. NEITHER THE ICCS NOR THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) MADE PROGRESS THIS WEEK. THE FORMER, OPERATING UNDER A PALL CAST BY THE QUANQ TRI HELICOPTER SHOOT- DOWN HAS NOT

COMPLETED ITS INVESTIGATION OF THAT TRAGEDY NOR DECIDED HOW IT WILL AFFECT FUTURE OPERATIONS. THE TPJMC WILL PROBABLY REMAIN ON DEAD CENTER UNTIL THE CHIEF PRG DELEGATE, LT. GEN. TRA, RETURNS TO SAIGON. END SUMMARY.

4. THE ELEVENTH WEEK SINCE THE SIGNATURE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT SAW FIGHTING FLARE SPASMODICALLY. ATTENTION IN THE DELTA WAS FOCUSED ON THE HONG NGU/ TAN CHAU AREA ALONG THE BANKS OF LE MEKONG REIVER NEAR THE COMBODIAN BORDER, WHERE A THIRD EFFORT TO EFFECT PASSAGE OF 9 MORE SUPPLY SHIPS TO PHNOM PENH FINALLY SUCCEEDED APRIL 15. IN NEARBY HONG NGU, THERE WAS SHARP
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 06434 01 OF 02 161323 Z

FIGHTING EARLY IN THE WEEK WITH ARVN REPORTEDLY MOVING SHORT DISTANCES ACROSS THE BORDER INTO CAMBODIA IN SPOILING OPERATIONS APRIL 9-10, AND AGAIN OVER THE WEEKEND TO SUPPORT THE CONVOY. THERE IS CONTINUING INFILTRATION FROM CAMBODIA INTO THE DEY PROVINCE OF DINH TUONG./ SIN BAC LIEU AND AN X763,, CLASHES ARE OCCURRING IN COASTAL AREAS WHICH IT IS SUSPECTED THE COMMUNISTS WISH TO SEIZE AS SHALLOW- DRAFT RESUPPLY POINTS.

AND IN CHABNG THIEN, THE GVN IS SEEKING TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE BY INSERTING ADDITIONAL TROOPS.

5. IN MR-3 THE THREAT TO PHUOC UONG SEEMS TO HAVE RECEDED FOR

THE TIME BEING, BUT THE SIEGE OF TONG LE CHAN CONTINUES. THE CAMP CONTINUES TO BE SUBJECTED TO SHELLING DAILY. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY SOME 50 WOUNDED WHO SHOULD BE EVACUATED. THE SUPPLY SITUATION IS REPORTEDLY SATISFACTORY, HOWEVER.

6. IN MR-2, THREE AREAS SAW MOST OF THE FIGHTING THIS WEEK: KONTUM, WHERE IN THE LAST 17 DAYS THE NVA/ VC HAVE ROUTED FOUR RF COMPANIES AND SEIZED AN IMPORTANT HILLTOP (SEE PARA 16); NORTHERN BINH DINH, WHERE GVN OFFICIALS ANTICIPATE A RENEWED ENEMY OFFENSIVE AND ARE REPOSITIONING FORCES ACCORDINGLY; AND WESTERN PLEIKU, WHERE INCONCLUSIVE SPARRING CONTINUES NOT FAR FROM DUC CO, AND ICCS SITE.

7. IN MR-1, MILITARY ACTION FLUCTUATED AS ATTENTION CENTERED ON THE SENSITIVE AREA NORTHWEST OF HUE. THE GVN IS SEEKING TO REORGANIZE ITS FORCES TO CONSTITUTE A BADLY NEEDED REGIONAL RESERVE.

8. THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, OUR OBSERVERS REPORT A GENERAL EXPECTATION BY SENIOR ARVN OFFICERS THAT SOMETIME WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS THE ENEMY WILL LAUNCH SUBSTANTIAL OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS, BUT THERE IS LITTLE AGREEMENT AS TO WHEN THIS WILL BE. OUR OFFICERS IN THE DELTA BELIEVE THE RVNAF FORCES THERE HAVE ALREADY ASSUMED A MORE OFFENSIVE POSTURE AND THAT INCREASED FIGHTING CAN BE EXPECTED.

9. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS) CONTINUED TO FUNCTION IN ITS FASHION THIS WEEK, BUT UNDER A PALL CAST BY THE TRAGIC DEATHS OF NINE PERSONS WHEN
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PAGE 04 SAIGON 06434 01 OF 02 161323 Z

AN ICCS HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN IN QUANG TRI APRIL 7 BY A COMMUNIST MISSILE. AN ICCS INSPECTION TEAM WAS FINALLY ALLOWED BY THE NVA " PRG " APRIL 10-11 TO ENTER NORTHERN QUANTRI TO INVESTIGATE THE TRAGEDY. (THE AREA IS SWARMING WITH NVA TROOPS, ARMOR, AND AAA.) THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

10. THE COMMUNISTS' PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN ANGRY AND DEFENSIVE, AND EVEN SOMEWHAT MENACING. AFTER AN INITIAL STATEMENT APRIL 8 " REGRETTING " THE INCIDENT, THEIR TONE HARDENED. THERE HAS BEEN NO HINT IN THE COMMUNISTS' IMPENITENT PROPAGANDA THAT THEY WILL EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN.

11. THE CANADIANS HAVE EXPRESSED SHOCK AND DISMAY AT THE TRAGEDY, BOTH IN OTTAWA

AND IN SVN. ON APRIL 13 CANDEL CHIEF AMBASSADOR GAUVIN IN A STATEMENT BEFORE THE ICCS MADE THIS POINT FORCEFULLY. MOREOVER, WHILE NOT NAMING THE DRV/ NVA EXPLICITLY, AMBASSADOR GAUVIN TOOK THAT OCCASION TO ALLEGE A " REASONABLE POSSIBILITY" THE DEATHS WERE CAUSED NOT BY EITHER OF THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES BUT RATHER " AT THE HANDS OF TROOPS WHOSE PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT." THIS IS THE STRONGEST (IF INDIRECT) CANADIAN CHARGE OF DRV VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. IT HAS ATTRACTED WIDE PRESS ATTENTION. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA HAS ALREADY REACTED WITH A STRONG PERSONAL ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR GAUVIN.

12. NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN BY THE ICCS REGARDING THE QUANG TRI HELICOPTER INCIDENT. ICCS SUPPLY AND ADMINISTRATIVE HELICOPTER FLIGHTS CONTINUE, AND OTHER FLIGHTS ONLY IF SPECIALLY AUTHORIZED. THE ICCS INVESTIGATION WILL CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL DAYS AT LEAST: THE PROSPECT FOR AN UNANIMOUS FINDING IS NOT GREAT.

13. THE FIGHTING AT TONG LE CHAN WAS ALSO SUBJECT OF ICCS DELIBERATION THIS WEEK. A LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO REMIND THE TPJMC OF A PREVIOUS ICCS REQUEST FOR
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PAGE 01 SAIGON 06434 02 OF 02 161354 Z

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01 NSC-10

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 EUR-10

SSO-00 INRE-00 (ADP) W

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O R 161110 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 227
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 6434

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 06434 02 OF 02 161354 Z

INDONESIAN PESSIMISM, AND GENERAL BOREDOM AND FRUSTRATION BY ALL PARTIES. THIS WEEK WE HAVE RECEIVED FURTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE INDONESIANS HAVE BECOME PARTICULARLY DOWNHEARTED AS THEY FILL THE CHAIR OF THE CENTRAL ICCS THIS MONTH. WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN TO BUCK THEM UP,

14. THE PRG TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) CHIEF, LT. GEN. TRANG VAN TRA, HAS YET TO RETURN TO SAIGON AND THE TPJMC REMAINS STALLED ON DEAD CENTER. IN TWO MEETINGS THIS WEEK THE RVN CONTINUED TO PRESS UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR THE LIFTING OF THE SIEGE OF TONG LE CHAN.

15. THERE ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS FROM THE FIELD THAT IN A NUMBER OF AREAS LOCAL GVN TPJMC TEAMS ARE LEARNING HOW TO DOCUMENT AND SUBMIT TO THE ICCS CEASEFIRE VIOLATION PROTESTS. HERETOFORE GVN PERFORMANCE IN THIS AREA HAD BEEN INEPT.

16. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT CONTACTS AT CORPS AND DIVISION LEVEL, WHICH HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT THIEU, ARE TAKING PLACE ANYWHERE EXCEPT IN KONTUM. THERE, THE SPORADIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF BG CAM, ARVN 23 RD DIV. COMMANDER, AND " PRG" REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS ARE CONTINUING, BUT SO FAR WITH UNCERTAIN RESULTS. AGREEMENT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN REACHED ON A PARTIAL AND TACIT DEMARCATION OF ZONES OF CONTROL NORTH OF THE CITY OF KONTUM, BUT DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS THERE HAS BEEN SHARP FIGHTING BETWEEN GVN TROOPS AND THE COMMUNISTS OVER SOME HIGH GROUND TO THE SOUTH IN THE CHU PAO PASS AREA, SOMEWHAT TO THE WEST OF QL-14. GVN FORCES HAVE SUFFERED SOME REVERSES. LAST REPORTS INDICATE THAT A TENTATIVE (AND FRAGILE) AGREEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED TO LEAVE THE HIGH GROUND AT ISSUE UNOCCUPIED BY EITHER SIDE.

17. NO APPRECIABLE PROGRESS WAS DETECTED IN THE APRIL 12 SIXTH RVN/ PRG BILATERAL TALKS AT LA CELLE ST. CLOUD.

BOTH SIDES HELD TO THEIR BASIC POSITIONS: THE GVN, THWFWKM W GMHSKSF
OEGNARR
XUBDJS ARPQGZGFR QUICK MOVEMENT TOWARD
ELECTIONS, THE PRG THAT "" DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES" MUST BE ASSURED
IN SVN BEFORE ANY OTHER ISSUE CAN BE RAISED. HOWEVER, THE GVN
SOFTENED ITS STANCE TO A DEGREE IN ACCCCEPTING THAT " DEMOCRATIC
LIBERTIES" MAY BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA, BUT ONLY AS A SUBSIDIARY
PART OF A PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDED NVA WITHDRAWAL AS ITS PRINCIPAL
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 06434 02 OF 02 161354 Z

FIXTURE. PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTING WAS THE COMMUNISTS'
POLEMICAL TONE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SOME GVN INSIDERS TAT THE
GVN EXPECTS THE PARIS BILATERALS WILL DEVELOP THE UNPRODUCTIVE
PATTERN OF THE AVENUE KLEBER DEBATES, BUT HOPES THAT
SUBSTANTIVE SECRET TALKS ELSEWHERE CAN BEGIN SOON. THERE
IN NO INDICATION OF PROGRESS TOWARD SUCH SECRET TALKS.
ANOTHER LA CELLE ST. CLOUD BILATERAL SESSION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED
FOR APRIL 19.
BUNKER

NOTE BY OC/ T: SAIGON 6434 2/2. NUMBERED PARA 17 AS RECEIVED.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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LONDON
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NHA TRANG
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